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February 26, 2021

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state, and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

First, I would like to provide a rundown of exactly what caused the power outages last week. Our state's energy infrastructure was simply not prepared for the unprecedentedly low temperatures we faced, and because of this, it failed on every level. First, our gas pipelines froze, so we lost the ability to transport natural gas. Second, wind turbines froze, and couldn't be de-iced because of hazardous road conditions. Third, one of Texas' four nuclear power plants was forced to shut down after a safety sensor froze. These blackouts were a result of a shortage of energy, not damage to power lines that we experience during hurricanes.

With all of that in mind, I would like to update you on the progress of the investigation into the failures of Texas' electrical grid. Multiple ERCOT board members, including the chairman and the vice-chairman, resigned their posts this week. Additionally, The House Committee on State Affairs and Energy Resources held a joint hearing today and yesterday. They heard from energy industry executives who outlined the problems the system faced during the storm and said that much of the responsibility for the energy grid's failure falls on ERCOT and the PUC. The video of these hearings can be found [here](#).

In other news, I am pleased to announce that this week we filed HB 2070, a bill that will give Texans the freedom to decide whether to legalize and regulate sports betting in our state. Sports betting is happening illegally in Texas right now, and by implementing efficient state oversight of sports betting, we will allow Texans to safely engage with the sports they love while creating a new revenue stream to support education and other important state programs.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dan



87th Legislative Session

Rep. Huberty's Current Legislative Agenda

[HB 767](#) - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

[HB 805](#) - Relating to certain increases in benefits under the firefighters' relief and retirement fund in certain municipalities.

[HB 827](#) - Relating to the disclosure of vehicle speed information to a law enforcement agency by an entity that operates a toll project.

[HB 900](#) - Relating to the liability of a landlord for damages resulting from the execution of a writ of possession in an eviction suit.

[HB 1147](#) - Relating to military readiness for purposes of the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program.

[HB 1428](#) - Relating to procurement by a political subdivision of a contingent fee contract for legal services.

[HB 1603](#) - Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

[HB 1740](#) - Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.

[HB 2070](#) - Relating to the regulation of sports wagering; requiring an occupational permit; authorizing a fee; imposing a tax; creating criminal offenses; decriminalizing wagering on sports events.

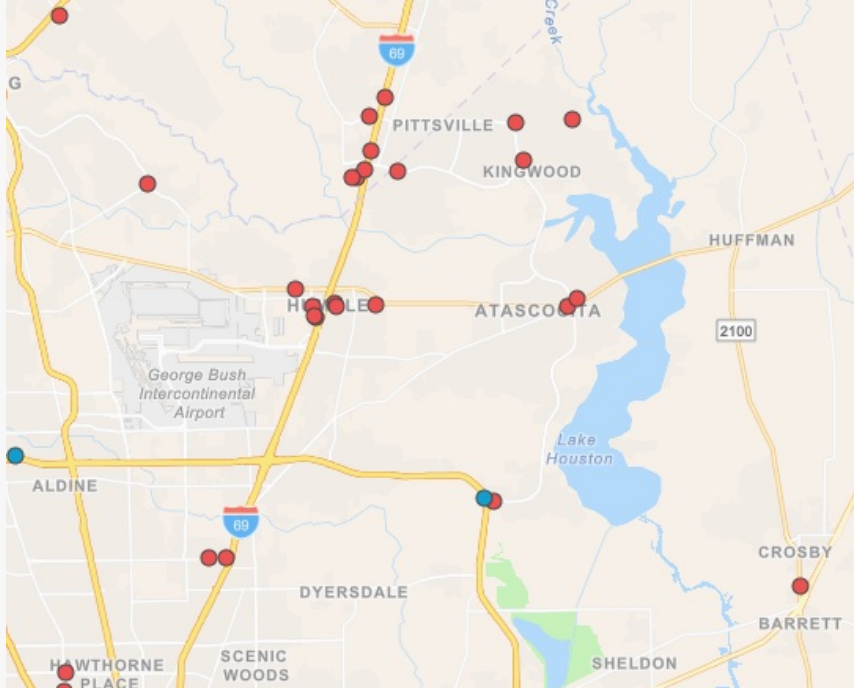
[HJR 97](#) - Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to legalize sports wagering in this state.

Bill Status Hotline

The Legislative Reference Library [introduced](#) a bill status hotline: **877-824-7038** (toll-free in Texas)

State Updates

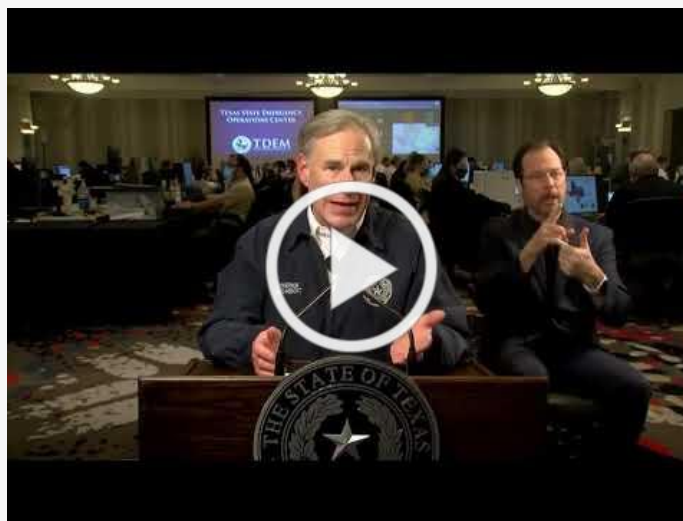
COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Map



Click the image to view an interactive map

If you would like to register for a COVID-19 vaccine, please click [here](#).

Gov. Abbott Addresses Power Outages, Winter Weather Response



Texas Allocated Nearly 600,000 First Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine This Week



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Comptroller's Office Extends Due Date for

Taxes and Fees

Because of the winter storm and widespread power outages, the Feb. 22 due date for state taxes and fees to be reported and paid will be **extended** by one week, **to March 1**, announced Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar.



The due date extension applies to all state taxpayers. It is automatic, and taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms. A list of the affected [taxes and fees](#) can be found on the Comptroller's website.

"In coping with this unprecedented weather event and the resulting blackouts, we understand the difficulty Texas businesses may face in filing returns by the Feb. 22 due date," Hegar said. "Right now, we want business owners to focus on their own safety and ensuring their families, friends, neighbors and loved ones get through this dangerous and challenging time."

For more information, call the Comptroller's toll-free tax assistance line at 800-252-5555.

Texas Prepaid Tuition Program Enrollment Deadline Approaches



Texas Prepaid Tuition Program Enrollment Deadline Approaches

Texas families can lock in today's cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities by enrolling their children in the tax-advantaged Texas Tuition Promise Fund® before the close of the ...

[Read more](#)
comptroller.texas.gov

TDI: Tips For Filing Insurance Claims

INSURANCE TIPS

BUSTED PIPES? FALLEN TREES? WINTER DAMAGE?

Contact your insurance company or agent to file a claim ASAP. Here's some tips before you call.



SOURCE: TEXAS DEPT. OF INSURANCE, TDI.TEXAS.GOV

Governor Abbott Announces “Save Our Seniors” Initiative To Vaccinate Homebound Seniors In Texas



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott Announces "Save Our Seniors" Initiative...

Governor Greg Abbott today held a press conference in Corpus Christi where he announced the statewide Save Our Seniors initiative to vaccinate homebound seniors across Texas. During the press conference, the Governor also commended the Corpus...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo Establish Houston-Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund

Greater Houston/Harris County 2021 Winter Storm Relief Fund

Greater Houston Community
Foundation and United Way of
Greater Houston now accepting
donations online at
www.WinterStormReliefFund.org.



Mayor Sylvester Turner



LINA HIDALGO



United Way of Greater Houston



GREATER HOUSTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Press Releases

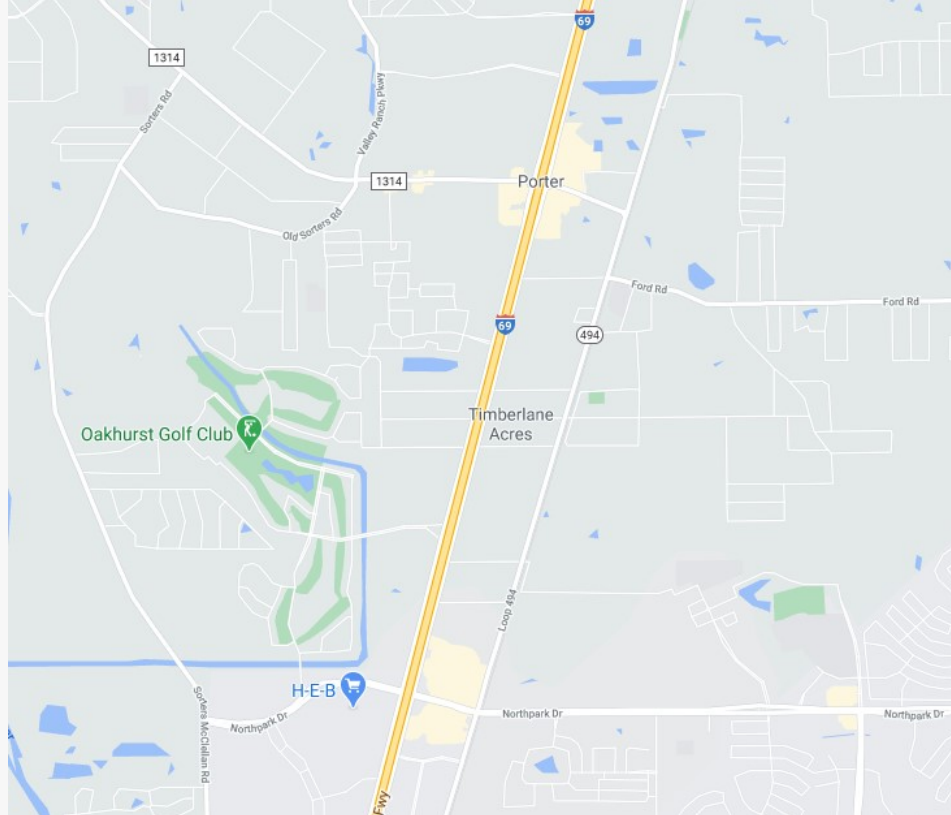
Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo Establish Houston-Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund February 22, 2021 -- Recognizing the dire hardships created by the extreme winter weather, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner ...

[Read more](#)

www.houstontx.gov

District 127 Updates

MAJOR WEEKEND CLOSURE OF IH-69 EAST TEXAS FREEWAY



The TxDOT will be restriping and setting safety barriers for a box culvert repair on a section of IH 69 northbound from Northpark to FM 1314 in Kingwood. There will be a total closure of IH 69 northbound main lanes from **Saturday, Feb. 27 at 3 a.m. through Monday, March 1 at 5 a.m.** Traffic will be forced to exit at Northpark and can re-enter the freeway north of FM 1314.

Additional closure updates can be found [here](#)

Kingwood COVID-19 Testing



The Kingwood Community Center will operate as a testing site from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., today (February 26) and tomorrow, Saturday, February 27. The site will remain open until it reaches its daily capacity of 250 tests. Appointments are not required but advance registration is recommended by going to this website: www.doineedacovid19test.com.

Kingwood Community Center
4102 Rustic Woods, Kingwood, TX 77345
Friday, February 26, 2021 - Saturday, February 27, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please keep in mind there are testing sites throughout the City open to the public for free testing. You may see a comprehensive list of those sites by visiting the City's COVID-19 information website: <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/>.

Be Aware of Scams

As people move into recovery from the winter storm, scammers have begun to try to take advantage of those impacted by the disaster.

Plumbing Scammer Signs:

- A contractor asks you to sign anything or before you've hired them
- Requires payment in full before starting the job
- Contractor doesn't have insurance

Additional Scammer Information:

Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA) **Don't Get Scammed** - <https://bit.ly/3qy9FPf>

ReadyHarris Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/ReadyHarris>

If **Price Gouging** is occurring, constituents may contact the Harris County Attorney's office by texting, calling, or going online:

- Email to consumerhelp@cao.hctx.net
- Text to 346-354-7459
- Or access an online form at harriscountycao.org

Contact Information

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[Email Casey](#)

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